

TENNESSEE
STATE CAPITOL REPAIR RECORDS
1953-1988

RECORD GROUP 121

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INTRODUCTION

Record Group 121 contain the records from the renovation of the Tennessee State Capitol Building from 1953-1959, and 1986-1988. These records are composed of blueprints, correspondences, reports, contracts and some photographs. There is also a VHS cassette documenting the progress of the restoration of the Capitol during the second half of 1987.

These records were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Jim Hoobler, Curator of the State Capitol, Tennessee State Museum. Some of these records came from the office files of Mike Fitts, State Architect for Tennessee.

The blueprints have been placed in the map cases of the Archives & Manuscripts Unit, TSLA located on the Eighth Stack, along with other blueprints of the State Capitol Building. All other original records are located on the Second Stack, TSLA and have been microfilmed (except for the blueprints). Any photographs and videotapes in this collection have been removed to the TSLA Vault.

This collection is approximately 1.5 cubic feet in size.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the record of the renovation efforts of the Tennessee General Assembly to restore the State Capitol Building of Tennessee during the mid-1950s and in the 1980s. In the early Fifties, the State Capitol Building was in a state of much needed repair and disorganization. In 1953, the General Assembly passed a resolution (HJR 29) which called for the implementation of a plan to renovate the interior of the Capitol, and the landscape of the Capitol grounds.

In the 1980s, a commission was formed with the intent to restore the State Capitol Building to its' original design as originated by architect William Strickland. The interior hallways, the State Library and the original State Supreme Court Chamber were restored during this period. However, because of funding cuts, the restoration of the House of Representatives chamber and the State Senate chamber were postponed.

Record Group 121 contains correspondence of the General Assembly's Legislative Council Committee in the early 1950s relative to the mid-Fifties renovation efforts, and has a book of photographs of the restoration of the exterior of the Capitol in 1957. These photographs were made by Charles Waterfield, one of the principal architects involved in the restoration effort of the middle 1950s. The Archives & Manuscripts Unit of the State Library and Archives also has a collection of photographs of Mr. Waterfield which also document the restoration of the Capitol during this period.

There are many blueprints of the Capitol renovation and restoration efforts, both of the 1950s and the 1980s restoration jobs. These blueprints are found in the map cases on the Eighth Stack of the State Library and Archives.

For further study of the State Capitol construction and renovation efforts, the researcher should also refer to Record Group 17: State Capitol Construction Records (1855-1860), Record Group 14: State Capitol Repair Records (1955-1960), Charles W. Waterfield Collection (MSS ac. no. 196) and William Strickland's original architectural sketches of the State Capitol of Tennessee (State Library Special Collections).

CONTAINER LIST

Box Number 1

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Contracts	1950s
2	Contracts (Instructions to Bidders)	1954
3	Contracts (Instructions to Bidders)	1954
4	Correspondences, re: Joint Committee on Improving the State Capitol (HJR 29).	1954-55
5	Correspondences, re: Press Facilities in the State Capitol Building	1954
6	Correspondences, re: Roll Call Machine	1957-69
7	Correspondences, re: Installation of Roll Call Machine in State Legislature	1956-57
8	Correspondences, re: Restoration and Repair of the State Capitol Building	1958-59
9	Correspondences, re: Cleaning Stone and Waterproofing the State Capitol Building	1977
10	Historical Data: State Capitol Building Construction	1850s
11	Memorials, re: Samuel Dold Morgan	1880s
12	Minutes, re: Joint Committee on Improving the State Capitol (HJR 29)	1953-54
13	Monuments, re: Edward Ward Carmack and the Three Presidents from Tennessee.	1958-63
14	Monuments, re: David Crockett	1955
15	Monuments, re: Andrew Johnson (bust).	1974-79
16	Monuments, re: James K. Polk	1956-57
17	Monuments, re: Alvin C. York	1968-70
18	Photographs, re: Early Capitols of Tennessee (note: negatives available in TSLA File)	
19	Photographs, re: State Library ceiling prior to the 1984 restoration.	
20	Photographs, re: Alvin C. York Memorial and Felix de Weldon (sculptor, York Memorial).	
21	Report, re: Remodeling of the Offices for the Legislative Council Committee and Speakers.	1953
22	Report, re: Recommendations for Repairs and Restoration of the State Capitol Building.	1954
23	Report, re: Alterations of the interior of the State Capitol Building.	1967
24	Report, re: Alterations to the House of Representatives and Senate Chambers.	1967

Box Number 1 (cont'd)

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>
25	Report, re: Improvements to the First Floor, State Capitol Building.	1972
26	Report, re: Specifications for the Restoration and Repair of the State Capitol Building.	1976
27	Report, re: Specifications for the Restoration and Repair of the State Capitol Building.	1976
28	Report, re: War Memorial Building Fire Safety.	1977
29	Report, re: State Senate accident.	1978
30	Report, re: Tennessee State Capitol Exterior Monitor Investigation.	1986
31	Report, re: Restoration Bid on Capitol Lampposts.	1987
32	Sculptures at the State Capitol	
33	Sketches, Interior Office Doors of the State Capitol Building.	
Notebook #1	<i>Tennessee State Capitol Restoration of Decorative Painting, Evergreen Painting Studios, Inc.</i>	9/18/87
Notebook #2	<i>Exterior Renovation, Tennessee State Capitol Building, General Preservation Corp., Worthington, Ohio. (no. 1)</i>	1984
Notebook #3	<i>Exterior Renovation, Tennessee State Capitol Building, General Preservation Corp., Worthington, Ohio. (no. 2)</i>	1984

Map Cases	Blueprints for Restoration projects.	1953-88
Vault	Photographs, re: State Capitol exterior columns, capitals and cornices.	1986
	Photographs, re: 1957 Restoration of the State Capitol Building, Charles Waterfield, photographer.	1957
	Video, Restoration of the interior, State Capitol.	1987

ADDENDUM

FEBRUARY 4, 1998

Map Cases	Blueprint: <i>Suggested Improvements to State Capitol Grounds, Office of State Property Administrator.</i>	1/8/1953
Vault	Photographs, re: State Capitol exterior columns, capitals and cornices. John E. Hood Photos, Nashville, Tenn. (3)	c. 1952
	Photographs, re: Capitol Hill Redevelopment. (3)	c. 1940s-50s